

Application No. 09/893,316
Amendment dated
Reply to Office Action of September 9, 2005

Docket No.: 291958161US1

REMARKS

Claims 54-108 are presently pending in this application. None of the claims have been amended in this response.

In the Office Action dated 9 September 2005, the disclosure was subject to an objection on the grounds that the priority claim is incorrect. More specifically, the Examiner states "U.S. Patent 5,235,995 appears to be a continuation or continuation-in-part of applications not referenced in the first line." The applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner. The priority claim set forth in the Preliminary Amendment dated 3 October 2001 clearly sets forth that U.S. Patent No. 5,235,995 is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 07/526,234 (now U.S. Patent No. 5,168,887). As such, the priority claim with respect to U.S. Patent No. 5,235,995 is correct, and the applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this objection.

The applicants respectfully note that the disposition of claims 54-108 was not set forth in the Office Action Summary. The applicants accordingly understand that claims 54-108 have been allowed, and that the only outstanding issue remaining in the application is the objection to the specification.

In light of the foregoing, the pending claims comply with 35 U.S.C. § 112 and are patentable over the cited art. The priority claim set forth in the Preliminary Amendment dated 3 October 2001 is also correct. The applicants accordingly request reconsideration of the application and a timely mailing of a Notice of Allowance. If Examiner Koch has any questions regarding this application, he is encouraged to contact the undersigned at (206) 359-3258.

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Respectfully submitted,

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